Rob Varley to be next Met Office Chief Executive

7 July 2014 - The Met Office is very pleased to announce that Rob Varley will be its new Chief Executive from September.

Rob has worked for the Met Office for more than 30 years, starting his career as a weather forecaster. He has been a Met Office Director since 2007, and is currently Operations and Services Director - responsible for weather and ocean observations, forecasting and operational services in the UK and internationally.

Rob, who will take over as Chief Executive from John Hirst CBE, has helped customers manage risks and recognise the opportunities associated with our changing weather and climate.

As a member of the Met Office Board, Rob has played a leading role in the strategic management of the organisation, including leading on sustainability, helping to ensure that the Met Office meets its objectives in a responsible way and acts in a positive manner in its dealings with staff, customers, suppliers and the wider community.

Before joining the Executive in 2007, Rob worked in a variety of roles; starting as a weather forecaster, then at the Met Office College overseeing the training and development of forecasters. A Chartered Meteorologist and Director, Rob was awarded Public Service Director of the Year 2012 by the Institute of Directors.

Business Minister Michael Fallon said: "I am pleased to appoint Rob Varley as Chief Executive of the Met Office. Rob will bring an extensive range of skills from his tenure as Director. His operational experience and customer insight will help the Met Office create new opportunities in the UK and overseas."

Greg Clarke, Met Office Chairman, said: "Rob Varley is an award winning director and a leading meteorologist who understands how the weather impacts our customers and is adept at helping them manage weather risks and opportunities. Rob is a tremendous asset to the Met Office, and I am delighted to be working and supporting him in his role as Chief Executive."

Rob Varley said: "I feel hugely privileged to be asked to take up this role having started work at the Met Office as a forecaster over 30 years ago. I am passionate about the difference accurate forecasts and warnings can make to people lives and livelihoods. As Met Office Chief Executive, I want to ensure we unlock the full potential of our science for the benefit of the nation and our partners in the UK and overseas."

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